

(a) the number of applications made by muslim divorcees for maintenance and/or provision under the Muslim Women (Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, Year-wise and state-wise;

(b) the number of cases for which the payment of maintenance/provision was ordered against the former husband, against blood relations or against State Wakf Board, separately;

(c) whether the constitutionality of the Act has been challenged before the Supreme Court and if so, the present status of the case;

(d) whether the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board has suggested some amendments to the Act; and

(e) if so, the present status of the proposed amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGLAM): (a) and (b). The information is not readily available. The same will be collected from the State Governments/ Union territory administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e). A number of petitions challenging the provisions of the Muslim Women (protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 have been filed in the Supreme Court and these are pending before the constitutional bench for hearing. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board have suggested some amendments to the Act. Since the matter is sub-judice no action has been taken on the suggestions.

[Translation]

Accident of MIG 23 Aircraft near Mohangarh

1444. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MIG 23 aircraft of Indian Air Force met with an accident near Mahangarh while doing exercise;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has been conducted into the causes of the accident;

(c) whether the aircraft was not thoroughly checked before sending it for exercise;

(d) whether such accidents have taken place in the past also; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There was an accident involving a MIG 23 aircraft near Mohangarh on 21 Oct 91, during an exercise.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The aircraft was thoroughly checked and certified serviceable before the exercise.

(d) and (e). An accident involving a MIG 23 aircraft in a similar exercise had taken place in March 1983. It was caused on account of technical failure.

[English]

Air Strips for Gliding Training of N.C.C. Cadets in Madhya Pradesh

1445. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Airports Authority provide air strips for gliding training of N.C.C. (Air Wing) cadets in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the non-fulfilment of gliding training affects the cadets in getting the 'C' certificate and commissioning in the I.A.F.; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). At present gliding training facilities exist at Bhopal and Raipur in Madhya Pradesh. While training continues to be given at Raipur, it has been suspended at Bhopal pending settlement of claim by the National Airports Authority. At Indore a new gliding strip, already sanctioned by the State Government, is to be constructed before gliding can be resumed.

(c) Gliding forms a part of N.C.C. training in Air Squadrons but is not mandatory for obtaining 'C' Certificate or for Commission in the I.A.F.

(d) Does not arise.

Surplus staff

1446. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce surplus staff in various departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government have identified particular wings in various departments which have become redundant or whose functions are considerably reduced; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time

frame within which these wings are likely to be closed and the surplus staff deployed for other useful work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (d). It has been the consistent policy of Government to ensure that the staff strength in each Ministry/Department is maintained strictly within the norms and its functional requirements. For this purpose, every Ministry/Department is required to conduct staffing studies through Internal Work Study Units to assess man-power needs as per norms and to identify surplus staff, if any. The Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance also conducts studies *suo-moto* or at the request of the various Ministries/Departments to determine the staff strength commensurate with the work-load. The studies relating to man power requirements also take into account the activities of the concerned Ministries/Departments so as to recommend areas of work which have become redundant and for which the man-power requirement cannot be justified. The identification of surplus staff is, therefore an on-going and continuous activity and no time frame can be indicated. The staff found surplus is absorbed against the existing vacancies or re-deployed through the Surplus cell of the Department of Personnel & Training.

Co-ownership right in property to women

1447. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to provide co-ownership rights to women;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring forward legislation to amend the rights